

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A quilting table for use with a sewing machine comprising:

a frame including first and second side rails, said first and second side rails supporting a front box channel rail in opposing relationship with a rear box channel rail, said front and rear rails defining a longitudinal dimension of said frame, and said first and second side rails defining a transverse dimension of said frame;

a first carriage having first grooved wheels engaged with first and second facing edges of said front and rear box channel rails, said first carriage being moveable relative to said longitudinal dimension; and

a second carriage for supporting said sewing machine, said second carriage having second wheels engaged with opposing rails of said first carriage and moveable relative to said transverse dimension.

2. A quilting table as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

said opposing rails of said second carriage are opposing box channel rails having third and fourth facing edges; and

said second wheels are second grooved wheels engaged with said third and fourth facing edges of said opposing box channel rails.

3. A quilting table as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

- a first support coupled to said first side rail;
- a second support coupled to said second side rail;
- a payout bar extending between said first and second supports, said payout bar including a first end rotatably engaged with said first support, and said payout bar being configured to have a fabric wound thereon;

- a first stop coupled to said first end for imparting a first compressive force to said first support and said payout bar for selectively preventing rotation of said payout bar;

- a take-up bar extending between said first and second supports, said take-up bar including a second end rotatably engaged with said first support, and said take-up bar being configured to have said fabric wound thereon as said fabric is unwound from said payout bar; and

- a second stop coupled to said second end for imparting a second compressive force to said first support and said take-up bar for selectively preventing rotation of said take-up bar.

4. A quilting table as claimed in claim 3 wherein said payout bar is a first payout bar, said fabric is a first fabric, and said quilting table further comprises:

- a second payout bar extending between said first and second supports and configured to have batting wound thereon; and

- a third payout bar extending between said first and second supports and configured to have a second fabric wound thereon, wherein said first fabric, said batting, and said second fabric are concurrently unwound from corresponding ones of said first payout bar, said second payout bar, and said third payout bar to form a sandwich structure that is passed beneath a needle bar of said sewing machine and is wound onto said take-up bar.

5. A quilting table as claimed in claim 3 wherein:

said first support includes a first slotted aperture extending inwardly from an outer perimeter of said first support, said first end of said payout bar being seated in said first slotted aperture; and

said second support includes a second slotted aperture extending inwardly from an outer perimeter of said second support, said second end of said take-up bar being seated in said second slotted aperture.

6. A quilting table as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said payout and take-up bars exhibits a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape.

7. A quilting table as claimed in claim 3 wherein a leader fabric is coupled to a leading edge of said fabric, said leader fabric having one of a hook and a loop fastener attached thereto, and each of said payout bar and said take-up bar includes the other of said hook and said loop fastener attached thereto for attachment with said leader fabric.

8. A quilting table as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said payout and take-up bars includes indicia for facilitating placement of said fabric on said each of said payout and take-up bars.

9. A quilting table as claimed in claim 8 wherein matching ones of said indicia are located on opposing ends of said each of said payout and take-up bars.

10. A quilting table as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

said second carriage includes a front edge facing said front box channel rail and a back edge facing said rear box channel rail, said second carriage being adapted to support said sewing machine with a machine head of said sewing machine facing said front edge; and

said quilting table further comprises a handle mounted on said second carriage proximate said front edge for manually translating said first and second carriages along said longitudinal and transverse dimensions.

11. A quilting table as claimed in claim 10 wherein said handle comprises a power control element configured for connection with a foot control socket of said sewing machine, wherein actuation of said power control element selectively activates said sewing machine.

12. A quilting table as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a speed control element in communication with said power control element for adjusting an operational speed of said sewing machine.

13. A quilting table as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a first shelf support extending from said first side rail;
a second shelf support extending from said second side rail; and

a pattern shelf coupled to each of said first and second shelf supports and extending across said longitudinal dimension of said frame.

14. A quilting table as claimed in claim 13 wherein said first and second shelf supports extend from said first and second side rails at a height sufficient to enable said pattern shelf to reside above said sewing machine.

15. A quilting table as claimed in claim 13 wherein said first shelf support is coupled to said first side rail above said rear box channel rail, said second shelf support is coupled to said second side rail proximate said rear box channel rail, and each of said first and second shelf supports angle forward so that said pattern shelf resides above said frame above said front box channel rail.

16. A quilting table as claimed in claim 13 wherein said pattern shelf is configured to support a quilting guide, and said quilting table further comprises:

a pointer support coupled to said second carriage and extending above said pattern shelf; and

a pointer held by said pointer support, said pointer moving in conjunction with movement of said first and second carriages to trace a pattern from said quilting guide, wherein said pattern is imparted on a fabric suspended on said frame in response to movement of said first and second carriages.

17. A quilting table as claimed in claim 16 wherein said pointer is approximately axially aligned with a needle bar of said sewing machine.

18. A quilting table for use with a sewing machine comprising:

a frame including first and second side rails, said first and second side rails supporting a front box channel rail in opposing relationship with a rear box channel rail, said front and rear rails defining a longitudinal dimension of said frame, and said first and second side rails defining a transverse dimension of said frame;

a first carriage having first grooved wheels engaged with first and second facing edges of said front and rear box channel rails, said first carriage being moveable relative to said longitudinal dimension;

a second carriage for supporting said sewing machine, said second carriage having second grooved wheels engaged with third and fourth facing edges of opposing box channel rails, said second carriage being moveable relative to said transverse dimension;

a first support coupled to said first side rail;

a second support coupled to said second side rail;

a payout bar extending between said first and second supports, said payout bar including a first end rotatably engaged with said first support, and said payout bar being configured to have a fabric wound thereon;

a first stop coupled to said first end for imparting a first compressive force to said first support and said payout bar for selectively preventing rotation of said payout bar;

a take-up bar extending between said first and second supports, said take-up bar including a second end rotatably engaged with said first support, and said take-up bar being configured to have said fabric wound thereon as said fabric is unwound from said payout bar; and

a second stop coupled to said second end for imparting a second compressive force to said first support and said take-up bar for selectively preventing rotation of said take-up bar.

19. A quilting table as claimed in claim 18 wherein said payout bar is a first payout bar, said fabric is a first fabric, and said quilting table further comprises:

a second payout bar extending between said first and second supports and configured to have batting wound thereon; and

a third payout bar extending between said first and second supports and configured to have a second fabric wound thereon, wherein said first fabric, said batting, and said second fabric are concurrently unwound from corresponding ones of said first payout bar, said second payout bar, and said third bar to form a sandwich structure that is passed beneath a needle bar of said sewing machine and is wound onto said take-up bar.

20. A quilting table as claimed in claim 18 wherein:

said first support includes a first slotted aperture extending inwardly from an outer perimeter of said first support, said first end of said payout bar being seated in said first slotted aperture; and

said second support includes a second slotted aperture extending inwardly from an outer perimeter of said second support, said second end of said take-up bar being seated in said second slotted aperture.

21. A quilting table as claimed in claim 18 wherein each of said fabric payout and fabric take-up bars exhibits a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape.

22. A quilting table as claimed in claim 18 wherein a leader fabric is coupled to a leading edge of said fabric, said leader fabric having one of a hook and a loop fastener attached thereto, and each of said payout bar and said take-up bar includes the other of said hook and said loop fastener attached thereto for attachment with said leader fabric.

23. A quilting table as claimed in claim 18 wherein each of said fabric payout and fabric take-up bars includes matching indicia on opposing ends of said each of said fabric payout and fabric take-up bars, said matching indicia facilitating centered placement of said fabric on said each of said fabric payout and fabric take-up bars.

24. A quilting table for use with a sewing machine comprising:

a frame including first and second side rails, said first and second side rails supporting a front rail in opposing relationship with a rear rail, said front and rear rails defining a longitudinal dimension of said frame, and said first and second side rails defining a transverse dimension of said frame; and

a first carriage having first wheels engaged with said front and rear rails and moveable relative to said longitudinal dimension; and

a second carriage having second wheels engaged with opposing rails of said first carriage and moveable relative to said transverse dimension, said second carriage having a front edge facing said front rail and a back edge facing said rear rail, and said second carriage being adapted to support said sewing machine with a machine head of said sewing machine facing said front edge;

a handle mounted on said second carriage proximate said front edge for manually translating said first and second carriages along said longitudinal and transverse dimensions;

a first shelf support extending from said first side rail;

a second shelf support extending from said second side rail; and

a pattern shelf coupled to each of said first and second shelf supports and extending across said longitudinal dimension of said frame.

25. A quilting table as claimed in claim 24 wherein said handle comprises a power control element configured for connection with a foot control socket of said sewing machine, and actuation of said power control element selectively activates said sewing machine.

26. A quilting table as claimed in claim 25 wherein said first and second shelf supports extend from said first and second side rails at a height sufficient to enable said pattern shelf to reside above said sewing machine.

27. A quilting table as claimed in claim 24 wherein said pattern shelf is configured to support a quilting guide, and said quilting table further comprises:

a pointer support coupled to said second carriage and extending above said pattern shelf; and

a pointer held by said pointer support, said pointer moving in conjunction with movement of said platform assembly to trace a pattern from said quilting guide, wherein said pattern can be imparted on a fabric suspended on said frame in response to movement of said platform assembly.